

(C) assessing the efficacy and outcomes of medical rehabilitation therapies and practices and assisting technologies;

(D) developing improved assistive technology to improve function and independence; and

(E) understanding whole body system responses to physical impairments, disabilities, and societal and functional limitations; and

(2) replicate the findings of network members or other researchers for scientific and translation purposes.

(c) COORDINATION OF CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORKS; REPORTS.—The Director may, as appropriate, provide for the coordination of information among networks funded through this section and ensure regular communication among members of the networks, and may require the periodic preparation of reports on the activities of the networks and submission of reports to the Director.

**Subtitle C—Improving Quality of Life for Persons With Paralysis and Other Physical Disabilities**

**SEC. 14301. PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PERSONS WITH PARALYSIS AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subtitle referred to as the “Secretary”) may study the unique health challenges associated with paralysis and other physical disabilities and carry out projects and interventions to improve the quality of life and long-term health status of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities. The Secretary may carry out such projects directly and through awards of grants or contracts.

(b) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—Activities under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development of a national paralysis and physical disability quality of life action plan, to promote health and wellness in order to enhance full participation, independent living, self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity in partnership with voluntary health agencies focused on paralysis and other physical disabilities, to be carried out in coordination with the State-based Disability and Health Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(2) support for programs to disseminate information involving care and rehabilitation options and quality of life grant programs supportive of community-based programs and support systems for persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities;

(3) in collaboration with other centers and national voluntary health agencies, the establishment of a population-based database that may be used for longitudinal and other research on paralysis and other disabling conditions; and

(4) the replication and translation of best practices and the sharing of information across States, as well as the development of comprehensive, unique, and innovative programs, services, and demonstrations within existing State-based disability and health programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which are designed to support and advance quality of life programs for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities focusing on—

(A) caregiver education;

(B) promoting proper nutrition, increasing physical activity, and reducing tobacco use;

(C) education and awareness programs for health care providers;

(D) prevention of secondary complications;

(E) home- and community-based interventions;

(F) coordinating services and removing barriers that prevent full participation and integration into the community; and

(G) recognizing the unique needs of underserved populations.

(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants in accordance with the following:

(1) To State and local health and disability agencies for the purpose of—

(A) establishing a population-based database that may be used for longitudinal and other research on paralysis and other disabling conditions;

(B) developing comprehensive paralysis and other physical disability action plans and activities focused on the items listed in subsection (b)(4);

(C) assisting State-based programs in establishing and implementing partnerships and collaborations that maximize the input and support of people with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their constituent organizations;

(D) coordinating paralysis and physical disability activities with existing State-based disability and health programs;

(E) providing education and training opportunities and programs for health professionals and allied caregivers; and

(F) developing, testing, evaluating, and replicating effective intervention programs to maintain or improve health and quality of life.

(2) To private health and disability organizations for the purpose of—

(A) disseminating information to the public;

(B) improving access to services for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their caregivers;

(C) testing model intervention programs to improve health and quality of life; and

(D) coordinating existing services with State-based disability and health programs.

(d) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate by the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

**TITLE XV—SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION**

**SEC. 15101. LABORATORY AND SUPPORT SPACE, EDGEWATER, MARYLAND.**

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT.—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to design and construct laboratory and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$41,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 through 2011. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

**SEC. 15102. LABORATORY SPACE, GAMBOA, PANAMA.**

(a) AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT.—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian tropical research institute in Gamboa, Panama.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$14,000,000 for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

**SEC. 15103. CONSTRUCTION OF GREENHOUSE FACILITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, to maintain the horticultural operations of,

and preserve the orchid collection held in trust by, the Smithsonian Institution.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$12,000,000 to carry out this section. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 24, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the nomination of Thomas Strickland, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Amanda Kelly at [kelly@energy.senate.gov](mailto:kelly@energy.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 17, 2008. At 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2009 at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Perspectives on Modernizing Insurance Regulation.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Law Enforcement Responses to Mexican Drug Cartels" on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, March 18, following the period of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 24, the nomination of Ronald Kirk to be U.S. Trade Representative; that there be up to 90 minutes of debate with respect to the nomination, with the time divided as follows: 30 minutes under the control of the majority and 60 minutes under the control of the Republicans; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, and that upon confirmation, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, no further motions be in order, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1541, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1541) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1541) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### REAUTHORIZING AND IMPROVING THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 30, S. 303.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 303) to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 303) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 303

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 11 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "AND SUNSET"; and

(2) by striking "and shall cease to be effective 8 years after such date of enactment".

#### SEC. 3. WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.

Section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and maintain a public website that serves as a central point of information and access for applicants for Federal grants.

"(2) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the website established under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, for each Federal grant—

"(A) the grant announcement;

"(B) the statement of eligibility relating to the grant;

"(C) the application requirements for the grant;

"(D) the purposes of the grant;

"(E) the Federal agency funding the grant; and

"(F) the deadlines for applying for and awarding of the grant.

"(3) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The website established under this subsection shall, to the greatest extent practical, allow grant applicants to—

"(A) search the website for all Federal grants by type, purpose, funding agency, program source, and other relevant criteria;

"(B) apply for a Federal grant using the website;

"(C) manage, track, and report on the use of Federal grants using the website; and

"(D) provide all required certifications and assurances for a Federal grant using the website."; and

(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking "All actions" and inserting "Except for actions relating to establishing the website required under subsection (e), all actions".

#### SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

#### "SEC. 7. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this Act.

"(b) CONTENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the applicable period—

"(A) a list of all grants for which an applicant may submit an application using the website established under section 6(e);

"(B) a list of all Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities;

"(C) a list of each Federal agency that has complied, in whole or in part, with the requirements of this Act;

"(D) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (C), a description of the extent of the compliance with this Act by the Federal agency;

"(E) a list of all Federal agencies exempted under section 6(d);

"(F) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (E)—

"(i) an explanation of why the Federal agency was exempted; and

"(ii) a certification that the basis for the exemption of the Federal agency is still applicable;

"(G) a list of all common application forms that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to apply, in whole or in part, for multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies) through a single common application;

"(H) a list of all common forms and requirements that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to report, in whole or in part, on the use of funding from multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies);

"(I) a description of the efforts made by the Director and Federal agencies to communicate and collaborate with representatives